

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 AGRE-00
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05
CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02
FEAE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10
/124 W

-----061625Z 092970 /42

O R 061528Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9201
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDEL MTN GENEVA

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FOR: EB/ISM - MR. LENAHA
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EMIN
SUBJECT: TIN -- STATEMENT BY BOLIVIAN DELEGATION
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TO INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL

REFERENCE: LONDON 158

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT BY THE
BOLIVIAN DELEGATE TO THE INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL AT
THE THIRD SESSION ON JANUARY 6:

"MR. CHAIRMAN,
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,
I HAVE HAD THE HONOUR TO OPPORTUNELY CONVEY TO YOU AND,
THROUGH YOU TO THE DISTINGUISHED COUNCIL DELEGATES, THE
DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BOLIVIA, WHICH I HAVE THE
HONOUR TO REPRESENT, NOT TO RATIFY OR ACCEOT. FOR THE
TIME BEING, THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL TIN AGREEMENT.
THIS DETERMINATION HAS ALREADY BEEN COMMUNICATED TO YOU,
MR. CHAIRMAN, TO ALL DELEGATIONS AND IT IS THEREFORE
OFFICIALLY KNOWN BY THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS.
WE NOTE FROM THE REPORT WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED ON
RATIFICATIONS, ACCEPTANCES, ETC., THAT MY GOVERNMENT IS
NOT THE ONLY ONE NOT TO HAVE DEPOSITED ITS INSTRUMENT OF
ACCEPTANCE. TO THE CONTRARY, THERE ARE OTHER COUNTRIES
- SEVERAL OF WHICH ARE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FROM THE
FIRST TIN AGREEMENT - WHOSE GOVERNMENTS HAVE NOT DONE SO
EITHER. ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT THE PURPOSE OF THIS STATE-
MENT TO ANALYSE SUCH A SITUATION, I CANNOT BUT MENTION
IT AND DRAW ATTENTION TO THIS HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT FACT.
THE BOLIVIAN MINISTER FOR MINING AND METALLURGY HAS
ALREADY EXPLAINED THE MOTIVES WHICH LED MY GOVERNMENT
TO ADOPT THAT RESOLUTION, WHICH EXPLANATION WAS PUBLISH-
ED ABROAD BY THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS AGENCIES.
I COULO THEREFORE ADD LITTLE OR NOTHING NOW TO THE
MINISTER'S STATEMENT. HOWEVER, FOR THE BENEFIT OF
THOSE DELEGATES WHO MIGHT WISH TO PASS ON A REPORT ON
ANY OFFICIAL STATEMENT WHICH, AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE
GOVERNMENT OF BOLIVIA IN THIS COUNCIL, I MIGHT MAKE, I
TAKE THE LIBERTY OF MAKING THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS. I
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START BY WISHING TO EMPHASISE THAT THE DECISION OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF BOLIVIA IS NOT BORN OUT OF A TEMPERAMENTAL
ATTITUDE OF THE MOMENT, IT IS NOT INTENDED TO EXERT
PRESSURE OR COERCE ANYBODY, NOR IS IT BASED ON ANY
SENSELESS DESIRE TO DESTROY A COMMODITY AGREEMENT WHICH
IS CONSIDERED AS A PARAGON. THE DECISION IS THE PRODUCT
OF A CAREFUL EVALUATION OF OUR RIGHTS AND NEEDS AGAINST
THOSE OFFERED OR GUARANTEED US BY THE AGREEMENT, IT IS
THE PRODUCT OF AN EXHAUSTIVE STUDY OF THE DEGREE OF
ASSURANCES THAT THE AGREEMENT CAN GIVE US IN RELATION
TO THE DEVELOPMENT, EXPANSION AND GROWTH OF A STRATEGIC
MINING INDUSTRY THAT CONTINUES YET TO REPRESENT THE MAIN
SOURCE OF EXPORT EARNINGS OF OUR ECONOMY; IT IS THE
PRODUCT OF A THOUGHTFUL ANALYSIS OF WHAT GOES ON NOWA-
DAYS IN THIS COUNCIL, WHERE THERE WOULD NO LONGER
APPEAR TO EXIST A DESIRE FOR DIALOGUE BUT RATHER AN
ATTITUDE OF OBSTINANT INFLEXIBILITY TOWARDS ANY UNDER-
STANDING; IT IS FINALLY, MR. CHAIRMAN AND DISTINGUISHED
DELEGATES, THE ONLY ROAD WE FIND OPEN TO US AFTER HAVING

MET WITH DOORS CLOSED TO OUR JUST REQUESTS AND AT A TIME
WHEN WE CANNOT SEE ON THE HORIZON, A CONSTRUCTIVE
POSSIBILITY OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO LEAD US ON.
MY COUNTRY'S TIN INDUSTRY PRODUCTION COSTS, AS WE HAVE
ABUNDANTLY AND REPEATEDLY PROVEN, ARE VERY HIGH FOR
REASONS MAINLY BEYOND OUR CONTROL. IT IS DUE TO THAT
REASON THAT A FLOOR PRICE WHICH MAY SAFEGUARD US
AGAINST DROPS IN MARKET FLUCTUATIONS AND MAINTAIN TIN'S
VALUE IN REAL TERMS WHILST GIVING US THE INCENTIVE TO
INVEST AND RE-INVEST WITHIN THE TIN INDUSTRY, IS FOR US
BASIC. ONLY ON THAT BASIS COULD WE GUARANTEE,

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
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INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
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OVER AND ABOVE A REGULAR PRODUCTION FLOW, A CONSTANT INCREASE THAT WOULD HELP TO PREVENT THE DISEQUILIBRIUM
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PREVAILING TODAY AND SO MANY TIMES EXPERIENCED IN THE PAST AND WHICH IS BY NO MEANS TO OUR BENEFIT.
IT IS FOR THE REASONS ALREADY STATED AND FURTHERMORE BECAUSE THE AGREEMENT SO PROVIDES, THAT WE HAVE BEEN PRESSING IN THIS COUNCIL FOR THE DETERMINATION OF A PRICE RANGE SUCH AS WILL GUARANTEE US ADEQUATE REMUNERATION.

I SHALL NOT TO ANY EXTENT REFER TO THE REPEATED REFUSALS WE HAVE RECEIVED AS REPLIES BUT, SIMPLY RECORD THAT AS A COUNTRY WE FIND IT MOST UNPLEASANT TO FIND OURSELVES COMPELLED TO CONTINUALLY HAVE TO INTRODUCE INTO OUR DISCUSSIONS, THE PROBLEM OF PRICES.

BUT, TRUE AS IT IS THAT THE MATTER OF PRICES IS OF IMPORTANCE, IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT THERE ARE OTHER MATTERS EQUALLY IMPORTANT WHICH MUST LIKEWISE MERIT CAREFUL ATTENTION.

WE WOULD WISH FOR THE AGREEMENT TO POSSESS CERTAIN FEATURES WHICH SO FAR IT DOES NOT; CLEARLY, FOR EXAMPLE, IT OUGHT TO REFLECT THE NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER WHICH, TODAY, CAN NO LONGER BE BRUSHED ASIDE; INSOFAR AS THE WEIGHT OF ITS FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS CONCERNED IT SHOULD BE MORE JUST AND EQUITABLE; IT SHOULD PROVIDE FOR A MORE DEMOCRATIC APPROACH IN ITS VOTING SYSTEM; IT SHOULD GUARANTEE THE EFFECTIVE ACHIEVEMENT OF ITS OBJECTIVES AND THE FULFILMENT OF THE TERMS SET OUT IN ITS PREAMBLE, LEST THESE BE SEEN AS MERE LITERATURE.

BUT, OVER AND ABOVE ALL, I WISH TO EMPHASISE, AS A MATTER OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE, THE NEED FOR THE AGREEMENT TO BE GOVERNED WITH REFERENCE TO PRICE RANGES BY INDEXATION, THE VIRTUE OF WHICH WOULD BE THAT OF AVOIDING DISCUSSIONS WHICH NOT ONLY FOSTER ANTAGONISM BUT PRODUCE CONTROVERSIAL DECISIONS LEADING TO POLARIZATIONS HIGHLY DISADVANTAGEOUS TO THE VERY AGREEMENT, AND REFLECT POLITICAL STANCES TOTALLY FOREIGN TO THE TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS TOWARDS WHICH THE COUNCIL OUGHT TO ADDRESS ITSELF.

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I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT THE ISSUES CONTAINED IN THIS STATEMENT SHOULD SURPRISE ANY MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL, AS THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE STATED THEM. WE HAD ALREADY ADVANCED THEM DURING THE PREPARATION OF THE AGREEMENT AND DURING THE NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE 1975 IN GENEVA. FURTHERMORE, AT THE TIME OF THE COUNCIL DELEGATION'S VISIT TO MY COUNTRY TO OBTAIN THE SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT, THEY WERE CLEARLY STATED. WHAT IS MORE, MY COUNTRY'S PRESIDENT THEN PLACED ON RECORD THAT THE FIFTH AGREEMENT WAS NOT SATISFACTORY AND THAT BOLIVIA WOULD VIEW WITH GREAT INTEREST THE REACTION OF THE COUNCIL TO BOLIVIA'S PROBLEMS AND THE COUNCIL'S ATTITUDE COULD AFFECT BOLIVIA'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS RATIFICATION (SUMMARY RECORDS - SPECIAL MEETING 5-7 MAY 1976, PAGE 32 - FOURTH AGREEMENT).

MR. CHAIRMAN,
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,
I MUST ALSO ADD THE CONCERN OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BOLIVIA AT THE INFRINGEMENT OF THE "SPIRIT OF THE AGREEMENT". IN ITS FIRST SESSION IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS UNDER ARTICLE 27(D)(I) AND (II) WHICH ARE BASIC. THE SECOND SESSION HAD TO BE ADJOURNED ON THIS SAME ISSUE FOR LONGER THAN A MONTH AND, EVEN WORSE, WHEN FOLLOWING LONG AND LABORIOUS DISCUSSIONS, THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF BOLIVIA, FINALLY OBTAINED AN INSIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF FLOOR AND CEILING PRICES, THEY HAD TO MAKE A STATEMENT, WHICH, EVEN THOUGH IT MAY HAVE BEEN MADE ON A PERSONAL BASIS, REPRESENTS A FLAGRANT CONTRAVENTION SINCE IT IS ESSENTIALLY A COMMITMENT IMPOSED SUPRA AGREEMENT. WHICH RAISES THE QUESTION: SUCH BEING THE CASE IN ONLY THE SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTH AGREEMENT, WHAT MIGHT THE FUTURE BRING?

MR. CHAIRMAN,
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,
I HAVE THUS PROVIDED YOU WITH A SUMMARY OF THE REASONS WHICH MOVED MY COUNTRY'S GOVERNMENT NOT TO DEPOSIT FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE TIME BEING ITS INSTRUMENT OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE FIFTH AGREEMENT.

I THANK YOU MOST SINCERELY FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION."

2. RE REFTTEL, MALAYSIAN DELEGATE (FATAH) TOLD USDEL HE HAS NOT RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS ALONG THE LINES REPORTED IN FT ARTICLE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Subject: TIN -- STATEMENT BY BOLIVIAN DELEGATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: EMIN, UK, BL
To: STATE
Type: TE
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